

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC(YODER/HERSCHBERGER)

SUBJECT: W/W YODER/HERSCHBERGER

1. REPORT BELOW IS PART OF REPORT PREPARED BY RICK MARIN FOR THE YODER FAMILY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM ECUADOR IN DECEMBER. THE REPORT WAS GIVEN TO E. POWERS ON MARCH 10 BY THE YODER FAMILY DURING AMBASSADOR BLOOMBIELD'S VISIT TO THE FAMILY. SEPARATE CABLE FOLLOWS RELAYING QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE MEETING. FAMILY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ACTION THE EMBASSY CAN TAKE TO BRING THIS REPORT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND TO HAVE THE SITUATION THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED. INFORM DEPARTMENT RESULTS OF EFFORTS.

2. REPORT: "DISGUSTING EXPERIENCES WITH ECUADOR'S INVESTIGATIVE POLICE IN RELATION TO THE YODER-HERSCHBERGER DISAPPEARANCE CASE."

"UPON BRINGING OUR SUSPECT MARCELO CARRION BEFORE THE
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SICP OFFICIALS IN QUITO, CORONEL JORGE CASTRO PAVON CALLED HIM INTO HIS OFFICE PRIVATELY AND DURING THE HALF HOUR TIME THEY WERE TOGETHER INFORMED HIM IN DETAIL OF THE NEW EVIDENCE WE HAD UNCOVERED AGAINST HIM

"I BELIEVE THIS WAS ACCOMPANIED ALSO BY THE CHANGING OF HANDS OF SOME FORM OF BRIBE. IN THE SUBSEQUENT TAPED

INTERVIEW AT WHICH I WAS PRESENT MR. CARRION RELATED NUMEROUS NEW STORIES IN GREAT DETAIL ABOUT THE LAST TWO DAYS HE SPENT WITH YODER AND HERSCHBERGER IN THE MACAS AREA. MANY OF THESE WERE CONTRADICTORY TO WHAT HE HAD TOLD US THE DAY BEFORE IN CUENCA AND HAD DECLARED THREE MONTHS PREVIOUS IN HIS WRITTEN POLICE INTERROGATIONS. I BELIEVE THESE NEW STORIES WERE CONCOCTED AS EXPLANATION FOR THE NEW EVIDENCE WE HAD UNCOVERED AGAINST HIM OF WHICH HE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED. THE POLICE DETECTIVE AND I DID CONCUR ON THE NEED TO TAKE HIS NEW TESTIMONY IN WRITTEN FORM (WHICH WAS DONE THE FOLLOWING MONDAY) AND THEN RUSH TO CUENCA TO GET TESTIMONY FROM TWO CITIZENS THERE WHO WERE TO HAVE RIDDEN FROM THE "LA PUNTA RANCH" TO MACAS IN COMPANY WITH YODER, HERSCHBERGER AND CARRION ON THE LAST DAY THEIR WHEREABOUTS WERE KNOWN.

"CORONEL CASTRO HOWEVER DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE MR. CARRION BACK TO CUENCA AND THAT HE WOULD TURN OVER THE CASE TO THE SIC OF THAT PROVINCE (AZUAY). BACK IN CUENCA WITH MR. CARRION, CONTRARY TO MY EXPRESSED WISHES HIS FAMILY WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT HIM WHILE HE WAS IN CUSTODY AND THE DETECTIVE AND I WERE DELAYED OVER FOUR HOURS WAITING FOR CORONEL AMAYA (SIC AZUAY) TO GIVE HIS GO AHEAD FOR OUR INTERROGATION OF THE TWO WITNESSES. WHEN IT WAS FINALLY GIVEN WE WERE ASSIGNED TO AZUAY DETECTIVE JULIO LEDESMA WHO PROCEEDED TO CALL THE CARRION FAMILY REQUESTING THEY BRING THE WITNESSES TO US. AFTER WAITING ANOTHER HOUR AND ONE HALF AT THE EL PORTON RESTAURANT THEY BROUGHT MR. CORDERO TO US FROM WHOM WE TOOK WRITTEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TESTIMONY AT THE POLICE OFFICE UNTIL INTERRUPTED. JUST PRIOR TO THE CORONEL'S INTERRUPTION MR. CORDERO HAD STATED THAT YODER AND HERSCHBERGER HAD NOT RIDDEN WITH THEM FROM LA PUNTA RANCH TO MACAS. HIS TESTIMONY WAS CONTINUED THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT WHICH TIME HE REQUESTED HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT BE CHANGED TO AGREE WITH MR. CARRION RECITAL OF EVENTS.

"AFTER RECEIVING WRITTEN TESTIMONY FROM THE OTHER WITNESS, MAURICIO DOMINGUEZ (CARRION'S BROTHER-IN-LAW) THE POLICE BEGAN COMPOSING THEIR FINAL REPORT WHICH MENTIONED A FEW INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE SUSPECTS AND THE WITNESSES TESTIMONY. AT THIS TIME I COULD FORBEAR NO LONGER SO REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE CORONEL. IN HIS OFFICE I EXPLAINED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE EVIDENCE WE HAD UNCOVERED AND HE SEEMED SINCERELY INTERESTED IN MY REPORT. JUST THEN HE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM THE GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE ABOUT THE CARRION CASE. I WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE

ROOM AND UPON TERMINATION OF THE CALL HE RUSHED UPSTAIRS
TO WHERE THE DETECTIVES WERE MAKING THE FINAL REPORT THEN
SPOKE A FEW WORDS TO ME WITH AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
ATTITUDE AND THE QUITO DETECTIVE AND I WERE DISMISSED
WITH COPIES OF THE REPORTS. THESE REPORTS WERE TURNED
OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES TO DECIDE WHETHER CHARGES
SHOULD BE BROUGHT. THEIR DECISION WAS NEGATIVE AND
MR. CARRION WAS RELEASED WITHIN 24 HOURS.

"MY CONCLUSION IS THAT EITHER THE ECUADORIAN CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATIVE POLICE ARE VERY DUMB OR THEIR CORONELS
WERE BRIBED AND POLITICALLY THREATENED AND I CAN ASSURE
YOU THE POLICE ARE NOT DUMB."

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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TAGS: CASC, EC, US, (YODER, DELILAH), (HERSCHBERGER, JAMES)
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Type: TE
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